

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND
CONFIDENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

For General Scientific and Technical Studies and Assistance

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CURRENT EMPLOYER: Montclair State University

SAB: _____

Standing Committee: Climate and Atmospheric Sciences

There are two parts to this form, Part I Background Information, and Part II Confidential Conflict of Interest Disclosure. Complete both parts, **sign** and **date** this form on the last page, and e-mail the form to njsab@dep.state.nj.us. **Retain a copy for your records.**

PART I -BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Please provide the information requested below regarding **relevant** organizational affiliations, government service, public statements and positions, research support, and additional information (if any). Information is "relevant" if it is related to — and might reasonably be of interest to others concerning — your knowledge, experience, and personal perspectives regarding the subject matter and issues to be addressed by the committee activity for which this form is being prepared. If some or all of the requested information is contained in your curriculum vitae, you may if you prefer simply attach your CV to this form, supplemented by additional responses or comments below as necessary.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS.

Report your relevant business relationships (as an employee, owner, officer, director, consultant, etc.) and your relevant remunerated or volunteer non-business relationships (e.g., professional organizations, trade associations, public interest or civic groups, etc.).

Member of the NASA MISR Science Team, 2004- (NASA HQ appointment late 2008).

Member, NASA Terrestrial Ecology Science Team, 2008-.

Principal Investigator, North American Carbon Program (NACP), 2006-.

Member, NASA Vegetation Structure Working Group, 2008-.

Member, NASA Land Cover Land Use Change (LCLUC) Science Team, 2004-2008

Principal Investigator, Jornada Core Site, ESA CHRIS/Proba mission, 2000-.

Member, American Geophysical Union, 2003-.

Member, *Gamma Theta Upsilon*, Montclair State University, Department of Earth and Environmental Studies, and *Iota Chapter*, 2002-.

Member, Association of American Geographers, 2007-.

Member, The Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society, 1994–2007.

IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society, 2002–2006.

Passaic River Institute, Montclair State University, June 2004-.

II. GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

Report your relevant service (full-time or part-time) with federal, state, or local government in the United States (including elected or appointed positions, employment, advisory board memberships, military service, etc.).

Montclair State University, Department of Earth and Environmental Studies

Associate Professor

September 2006-

Assistant Professor

September 2002 - August 2006

United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service:
Jornada Experimental Range, Las Cruces, New Mexico.
Physical Scientist GS12. January 2001 - August 2002

United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service
Hydrology and Remote Sensing Laboratory, Animal and Natural Resources Institute,
BARC-West, Beltsville, Maryland.
Physical Scientist GS11 January 1999 - January 2001

II. RESEARCH SUPPORT.

Report relevant information regarding both public and private sources of research support (other than your present employer), including sources of funding, equipment, facilities, etc.

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences 2008 (ROSES'08), Terrestrial Ecology Program: *Mapping Changes in Shrub Abundance & Biomass in Arctic Tundra using NASA Earth Observing System Data: A Structural Approach*, July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2012, (PI, Award #NNX09AL03G, \$522,358).
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Jet Propulsion Laboratory/MISR Project: *Forest and Shrub Mapping with MISR*, Mar-Dec 2009. (PI, Subcontract #1365499 \$74,573).
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences 2008 (ROSES'08), Terrestrial Ecology Program: *Structure, Biomass, and Disturbance in the Southwestern United States from MISR, MODIS, and LVIS*, PI (\$508,004, proposal not selected but part of the field/air component was funded).
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences 2006 (ROSES'06), Earth Observing System submission: *A New Approach for Mapping Woody Plants in the Southwestern United States Using NASA Earth Observing System Data*, 2008-2011, PI (Award #NNX08AE71G, \$192,994).
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Earth Observing System, Earth System Science Research using Data and Products from Terra, Aqua, and ACRIM Satellites: *Quantifying Changes in Carbon Pools with Shrub Invasion of Desert Grasslands using Multi-Angular Data from EOS Terra and Aqua* 2004–2008. PI. Award #NNG04GK91G, PI (\$481,380). Completed.
- European Space Agency: *Physical structure and composition of desert grasslands and shrublands via hyperspectral multiple view angle reflectance data from the CHRIS sensor on Proba..* Awarded June 2000 (data grant; ongoing).

IV. PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS. List your relevant articles, testimony, speeches, etc., by date, title, and publication (if any) in which they appeared, or provide relevant representative examples if numerous. Provide a brief description of relevant positions of any organizations or groups with which you are closely identified or associated.

Articles: None other than academic/research.

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

If there are relevant aspects of your background or present circumstances not addressed above that might reasonably be construed by others as affecting your judgment in matters within the assigned task of the committee or panel on which you have been invited to serve, and therefore might constitute an actual or potential source of bias, please describe them briefly.

None other than academic/research.

PART II CONFIDENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

INSTRUCTIONS

It is essential that the work of committees of the SAB used in the development of reports not be compromised by any significant conflict of interest. For this purpose, **the term “conflict of interest” means any financial or other interest which conflicts with the service of the individual because it (1) could significantly impair the individual’s objectivity or (2) could create an unfair competitive advantage for any person or organization.** Except for those situations in which the Department determines that a conflict of interest is unavoidable and promptly and publicly discloses the conflict of interest, no individual can be appointed to serve (or continue to serve) on a committee of the department used in the development of reports if the individual has a conflict of interest that is relevant to the functions to be performed.

The term “conflict of interest” means something more than individual bias. There must be an *interest*, ordinarily financial, that could be directly affected by the work of the committee.

Conflict of interest requirements are *objective* and *prophylactic*. They are not an assessment of one’s actual behavior or character, one’s ability to act objectively despite the conflicting interest, or one’s relative insensitivity to particular dollar amounts of specific assets because of one’s personal wealth. Conflict of interest requirements are objective standards designed to eliminate certain specific, potentially compromising situations from arising, and thereby to protect the individual, the other members of the committee, the Department, and the public interest. The individual, the committee, and the department should not be placed in a situation where others could reasonably question, and perhaps discount or dismiss, the work of the committee simply because of the existence of conflicting interests.

The term “conflict of interest” applies only to *current interests*. It does not apply to past interests that have expired, no longer exist, and cannot reasonably affect current behavior. Nor does it apply to possible interests that may arise in the future but do not currently exist, because such future interests are inherently speculative and uncertain. For example, a pending formal or informal application for a particular job is a current interest, but the mere possibility that one might apply for such a job in the future is not a current interest.

The term “conflict of interest” applies not only to the personal interests of the individual but also to the *interests of others* with whom the individual has substantial common financial interests if these interests are relevant to the functions to be performed. Thus, in assessing an individual’s potential conflicts of interest, consideration must be given not only to the interests of the individual but also to the interests of the individual’s spouse and minor children, the individual’s employer, the individual’s business partners, and others with whom the individual has substantial common financial interests. Consideration must also be given to the interests of those for whom one is acting in a fiduciary or similar capacity (e.g., being an officer or director of a corporation, whether profit or nonprofit, or serving as a trustee).

Much of the work of this department involves scientific and technical issues across a broad range of activities. Such activities may include, for example: defining research needs, priorities, opportunities and agendas; addressing questions of human or ecological health; providing scientific and technical assistance; assessing the state of scientific or technical knowledge on particular subjects and in particular fields. Such activities frequently address scientific and technical issues that are sufficiently broad in scope that they do not implicate specific financial interests or conflict of interest concerns.

However, where such activities address more specific issues having significant financial implications — e.g., funding option A versus option B, government development or evaluation of a specific proprietary technology, — careful consideration must be given to possible conflict of interest issues with respect to the appointment of members of committees that will be used by the department in the development of reports to be utilized by the department.

The overriding objective of the conflict of interest inquiry in each case is to identify whether there are interests — primarily financial in nature — that conflict with the committee service of the individual because they could impair the individual’s objectivity or could create an unfair competitive advantage for any person

or organization. The fundamental question in each case is does the individual, or others with whom the individual has substantial common financial interests, have identifiable interests that could be directly affected by the outcome of the project activities of the committee on which the individual has been invited to serve? For projects involving advice regarding awards of contracts, grants, etc., this department is also guided by the principle that an individual should not participate in any decision regarding the award of a contract or grant or any other substantial economic benefit to the individual or to others with whom the individual has substantial common financial interests or a substantial personal or professional relationship.

The application of these concepts to specific scientific and technical studies and assistance projects must necessarily be addressed in each case on the basis of the particular facts and circumstances involved. The questions set forth below are designed to elicit information from you concerning possible conflicts of interest that are relevant to the functions to be performed by the particular committee on which you may be invited to serve.

1. FINANCIAL INTERESTS. (a) Taking into account stocks, bonds, and other financial instruments and investments including partnerships (but excluding broadly diversified mutual funds and any investment or financial interests valued at less than \$10,000), do you or, to the best of your knowledge others with whom you have substantial common financial interests, have financial investments that could be affected, either directly or by a direct effect on the business enterprise or activities underlying the investments, by the outcome of the project activities of the committee on which you may be invited to serve?

(b) Taking into account real estate and other tangible property interests, as well as intellectual property (patents, copyrights, etc.) interests, do you or, to the best of your knowledge others with whom you have substantial common financial interests, have property interests that could be directly affected by the outcome of the project activities of the committee on which you may be invited to serve?

(c) Could your employment or self-employment (or the employment or self-employment of your spouse), or the financial interests of your employer or clients (or the financial interests of your spouse's employer or clients) be directly affected by the outcome of the project activities of the committee on which you may be invited to serve?

(d) Taking into account research funding and other research support (e.g., equipment, facilities, industry partnerships, research assistants and other research personnel, etc.), could your current research funding and support (or that of your close research colleagues and collaborators) be directly affected by the outcome of the project activities of the committee on which you may be invited to serve?

(e) Could your service on the committee on which you may be invited to serve create a specific financial or commercial competitive advantage for you or others with whom you have substantial common financial interests?

If the answer to all of the above questions under FINANCIAL INTERESTS is either "no" or "not applicable," check here (NO). ✓

If the answer to any of the above questions under FINANCIAL INTERESTS is "yes," check here (YES), and briefly describe the circumstances on the last page of this form.

2. OTHER INTERESTS.

(a) Is the central purpose of the project for which this disclosure form is being prepared a critical review and evaluation of your own work or that of your employer?

(b) Do you have any existing professional obligations (e.g., as an officer of a scientific or engineering society) that effectively require you to publicly defend a previously established position on an issue that is relevant to the functions to be performed in this committee activity?

(c) To the best of your knowledge, will your participation in this committee activity enable you to obtain access to a competitor's or potential competitor's confidential proprietary information?

(d) If you are or have ever been a NJ State employee, to the best of your knowledge are there any state conflict of interest restrictions that may be applicable to your service in connection with this committee activity?

(e) If you are a NJ State employee, are you currently employed by a state agency that is sponsoring this project? If you are not a NJ State employee, are you an employee of any other sponsor (e.g., a private foundation) of this project?

(f) If the committee activity for which this form is being prepared involves reviews of specific proposals for contract, grant, etc. awards to be made by NJDEP, do you or others with whom you have substantial common financial interests, or a familial or substantial professional relationship, have an interest in receiving or being considered for awards that are currently the subject of the review being conducted by this committee?

(g) If the committee activity for which this form is being prepared involves developing requests for proposals, work statements, and/or specifications, etc., are you interested in seeking an award under the program for which the committee on which you have been invited to serve is developing the request for proposals, work statement, and/or specifications — or, are you employed in any capacity by, or do you have a financial interest in or other economic relationship with, any person or organization that to the best of your knowledge is interested in seeking an award under this program?

If the answer to all of the above questions under OTHER INTERESTS is either “no” or “not applicable,” check here (NO). ✓

If the answer to any of the above questions under OTHER INTERESTS is “yes,” check here (YES), and briefly describe the circumstances on the last page of this form.

EXPLANATION OF “YES” RESPONSES:

During your period of service in connection with the activity for which this form is being completed, any changes in the information reported, or any new information, which needs to be reported, should be reported promptly by written or electronic communication to the NJDEP Office of Science staff representative.



YOUR SIGNATURE

(Mark J Chopping)

DATE 12/18/09

Reviewed by:

NJDEP

DATE